

# GARBAGE GAZETTE

## Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection Solid Waste Management Unit



Vol. 6, No. 9

Oct., 1987

### TRAILBLAZING IN RHODE ISLAND

This fall marks the kick-off of Rhode Island's "Pilot Program of Mandatory Curbside Recycling" in rural East Greenwich and urban West Warwick. With careful planning and laudable attention to detail, the state's Department of Environmental Management (DEM) Ocean State Clean-up and Recycling (OSCAR) Program has designed the research and demonstration program. The state is organizing this pilot program with obvious intent to make it a valuable learning experience. It is worthwhile for Connecticut recyclers to know some of the details of Rhode Island's pilot program, because this project is one to watch. The following details are extracted from DEM/OSCAR's June, 1987, proposal to the state's Solid Waste Management Corporation.

#### PURPOSES

1. Test assumptions on which Rhode Island's projections (*i.e.*: percent participation, ratio recyclables vs. refuse per household, capture rates, etc.) are based.
2. Test two types of set-out containers for capacity, durability, and ease of handling.
3. Test the impact of plastic beverage container collection on the capacity of the set-out containers and recycling vehicle, and resident response to plastic beverage container collection.
4. Examine the operation of a one driver dedicated recycling vehicle.
5. Acquire feedstock for the materials recovery facility (MRF). (*editor's note*: in Connecticut we call it an intermediate processing center (IPC).)
6. Test motivational strategies.
7. Evaluate the impact on amounts generated and/or resident response to two different strategies for collecting newspaper.
8. Measure satisfaction with the collection program.
9. Evaluate the impact of public education materials.
10. Measure the impact of recycling on the costs of operating the normal solid waste collection program.
11. Provide models for other Rhode Island cities and towns.

Heading this effort for Rhode Island's DEM are Victor Bell, Chief of the Office of Environmental Coordination, and Janet Keller, Recycling Coordinator (they can be reached at (401) 277-3434.) Program Manager for Rhode Island Solid Waste Management Corp. at the MRF is Marion Gold, (401) 831-4440. Operating the MRF are New England CRINC (Robert E. Myers, (617) 667-0096.)

The state is providing two collection vehicles (to be loaned to municipalities with option to buy at the end of the test period) and all set out containers to do the job. Two types of set out containers - twenty gallon containers preferred by the haulers and ten gallon boxes currently in use in Kitchener and Mississauga Ontario - will be tested. A single operator dedicated recycling vehicle with enclosed partitions will be tested and evaluated. All materials collected will be weighed each day, loads sorted, weights converted to volume, and all inventoried materials stored for shakedown of the MRF. Interns working for the state will perform data analysis and assessment of education methods and public response.

#### RESEARCH PROGRAM

A major benefit for Connecticut OSCAR-watchers will be the results of the research portion of this pilot program. Eight subject areas will be evaluated:

**TESTING ASSUMPTIONS** will be an effort to study the quantities of each material (in weight and volume) from each participating source.

**TESTING SET-OUT CONTAINERS** will evaluate consumer satisfaction with the two different containers (ease, durability, how full/how frequently full) as well as hauler satisfaction with the containers (hoisting and dumping into vehicle, how it stands wind and weather, durability.)

**TESTING PLASTICS COLLECTION** will evaluate volume requirements for hauling plastic soda bottles and milk jugs, as well as telephone survey of public opinions about including plastics in the collection program and about consumer packaging preferences.

**TRUCK OPERATIONS DATA** will log miles, time, maintenance, and effectiveness of one driver/operator.

**TESTING MOTIVATION STRATEGIES** is a joint state and local effort (very much like Connecticut's Community Environmental Education Program (CEEP) network approach.) State and local efforts will be directed by town coordinators with logistical support from the state.

**SATISFACTION WITH THE COLLECTION PROGRAM/IMPACT OF PUBLIC EDUCATION MATERIALS** will be measured through monthly telephone survey of 100 randomly-selected test individuals.

**IMPACT OF COLLECTION ON THE OPERATION AND COST OF THE MUNICIPAL SOLID WASTE COLLECTION PROGRAM** will be calculated for West Warwick, which is served by municipal collection. East Greenwich's contractor collection costs might be studied at a future date.

**IMPACT OF COLLECTING NEWSPRINT ONLY VERSUS COLLECTING ALL MATERIAL THAT COMES WITH THE NEWSPAPER** is expected to improve quality of collected paperstock, but at the cost of lower volumes (tonnages) recovered and perhaps less participation. These costs and benefits will be quantified.

There is much more detail spelled out in the June '87 proposal. Anyone interested in reading the proposal, please contact Toby Goodrich c/o *Garbage Gazette*.

(*editor's note*: A phone call from OSCAR's Carole Bell brought the news that in the first week of the pilot in East Greenwich, **94% of the households participated.**)

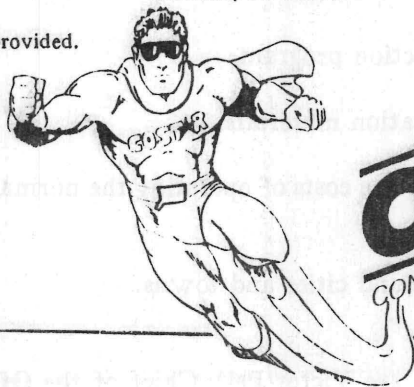
### DEP IS LOOKING FOR A FEW GOOD MEN

(hourly wage to be determined)

If you think you have the stuff to be Connecticut's first *bona fide* superhero, contact the Department of Environmental Protection. RAY CYCLE will visit schools, appear in television public service announcements, and take part in an occasional publicity stunt or two. Send photo and brief statement of qualifications to:

Toby Goodrich  
c/o *Garbage Gazette*  
DEP/Information and Education  
165 Capitol Avenue  
Hartford, CT 06106

Costume provided.



**COSTAR**  
CONSTITUTION STATE RECYCLERS

Bulk Rate  
U.S. Postage  
Paid  
Permit No. 4313  
Hartford, CT